

**ALUMNI NEWSLETTER**

1914

**ISSUE 7****A DECADE AT KAMAJI**

**Lillian Fleisher**  
**Camper '11-'17, Staff '18-'19, '21**

Ten summers at camp is a long time. I started going to camp when I was 9 years old and was most recently at camp when I was 19. A lot has changed since then to say the least. I transitioned from a child to a young adult, learned plenty of new skills, and really grew into myself as a person. While I was changing, camp was as well. In my ten years at Kamaji, campers and counselors came and left, directors changed, head cooks came and went, evening programs were added and others were nixed, and wash houses and other buildings were redone. However many things stayed the same like Kamaji's traditions, the spirit of the campers, the creativity and dedication of the counselors, and the beautiful shores of Wolf Lake.

This past summer I was at camp for less than twelve days and I did a lot of reflecting. For some reason the place I knew so well, felt eerily different to me. The faces were new and young. The girls who were familiar to me were suddenly so much older and more mature after two years have gone by. I also had the sad realization that none of these campers know of the campers and counselors that defined Kamaji for me; everyone I looked up to felt long gone. But, I remember looking around the dining hall and appreciating the new generation of Kamaji. They are spunky, sweet, and confident young people who are thriving and enjoying the same place I have created so many memories in.

**IN THIS ISSUE**

- Summer Scrapbooks
- Around the Campfire
- A Note from Kat

**CAMP ACCOUNT**

Camp InTouch is the easiest way to be sure you are in the know for all things Camp Kamaji. Create an account **HERE**.

**KAMAJI GEAR**

Tribe shirts, council fire sweatshirts, and more are available for purchase year round! Visit our webstore **HERE**.

**RECORD CHECK**

We want to stay in touch! Please update your contact information and camp history in your Camp InTouch account. You can also email [bri@kamaji.com](mailto:bri@kamaji.com).

Although they won't know the same people I knew or have the same exact experience as me, these campers are embodying the true Kamaji spirit and are creating their own memories. Accepting this fact and all of the changes that have happened in the past ten years is really challenging. I have taken the time to look back and share ten lessons I have learned from being a Kamaji camper/counselor.

**1. It's important to be silly sometimes.** Thinking about my memories at camp so many of them are ridiculous like wearing an inflatable blue morph suit on tribe day, singing and dancing in the middle of meals, creating a chaotic play, just to name a few.

**2. Treat others as you want to be treated.** When I was a camper I loved when older campers or counselors hung out with me or gave me compliments. In my head I thought so highly of these older girls that when they gave me attention I thought I was the coolest person in the world. When I became an older camper and a counselor I kept in mind how much I appreciated a small compliment or conversation and tried to engage with people in ways I would've enjoyed.

**3. Befriend people who are older or younger than you.** At camp, I loved my porchmates so much and all of the crazy things we would do together. But, one of my favorite parts of camp was that you can be friends with anyone no matter their age. One of my campers in cocoon this summer was friends with a camper in pine manor!

**4. Take risks.** Camp is the perfect place for you to make a mistake and learn from it. Why not try to drop a ski in water skiing? The worst thing that happens is that you fall and try again the next day.

**5. Friendships always pick up where they left off.** My camp friends and I rarely spoke much over the year. The second we saw each other at the airport each summer it was like no time even passed. Sometimes I get intimidated thinking about reaching out to friends who I haven't talked to in a while. I need to keep in mind that we will pick up where we left off just like what happened every summer at camp.



**6. Sisters are the best.** Camp has formed a shared connection between my two sisters and I. We can always talk and laugh about our camp experiences and memories. This is not something that I take for granted.

**7. Make the most out of every situation.** Camp taught me that not everything works out the way you wanted. When that happens, you have to rise to the occasion and let it surprise you. For example, my Canadian group got split where I was in a group with people who were not in my porch. At first I was nervous, but the trip was amazing and I had a great time because I allowed myself to make the most out of the situation.

**8. It's okay to have a moment.** One of my camp friend's favorite story about me is when I threw a temper tantrum after getting all of my intersession food and candy taken away. I was 15. Definitely not my finest moment but turned into a funny story now.

**9. Support each other.** At camp it's easier to forget about the hard things that are happening at home. Camp is supposed to be an escape. But, I have learned that people from my camp circle still support me during the year and will always be there for me.

**10. Change is necessary but hard.** Last but not least, the biggest take away I have from ten years at Kamaji is that things change. It's inevitable. The Kamaji you picture in your head is not the exact same as it is right now. That's the beauty in a place like Kamaji, even though the people change the fundamental aspects will always remain. And most importantly, your memories will always stay exactly as you want to and choose to remember them.



## ABOUT LILLIAN

**Tribe:** Geshig

**Favorite Camp Dessert:**

Cookie dough brownies

**Favorite Activity:** Swimming

# Summer 2022

Enrollment is open for another fun, silly, and safe summer at Kamaji! Last summer we welcomed 65 new campers to our special home away from home. Kat is working hard to keep up the momentum for summer 2022!

Please help us spread the word about camp by sharing with your friends, relatives, college roommates and neighbors! We currently have spots available in both sessions, but 2nd session especially is filling up quickly. Kat is ready to connect over Zoom with future campers to share pictures of camp, explore a typical day and answer any questions!

Please email [kat@kamaji.com](mailto:kat@kamaji.com) for more info.

Thank you for helping us grow the Kamaji family!



## SUMMER 2022 DATES!

### Full Eight Week Season:

Friday, June 17th- Wednesday, August 10th

### First Four Week Session:

Friday, June 17th- Wednesday, July 13th

### Second Four Week Session:

Friday, July 15th- Wednesday, August 10th

ENROLL  
TODAY!

## Summer Scrapbooks

Do you know someone who would like to learn more about camp but isn't ready for a Zoom call yet? Share one of our online Summer Memory Scrapbooks with them!

Links below.

2019

2018

2017



# HATCHERY 2031



Future Kamaji campers and trip leaders. Congratulations to all of our alumni families and thank you for sharing your photos with us! Alumni's info is listed below photo.



Emily Wasserman



Rebeca Varela  
Staff '16



Lucy Bubloz  
Staff '15-'16



Kelly Wabiszewski



Leann (Haddock)  
Clements  
Staff '14-'15



Do you know a Kamaji alumni with a little one on the way? Let us know and we'll send them a Camp Kamaji onesie too! Email [bri@kamaji.com](mailto:bri@kamaji.com).

## KAMAJI

POEM WRITTEN BY  
ANASTASIA TAYLOR,  
CAMPER '21

Camp Kamaji is beautiful in every way  
No matter how we play  
From the beautiful trees to the not so beautiful spiders  
Are all connected with our Council Fires  
The land will stand and make history  
But for us girls it's her-story  
From the Ishkadays to Naners  
When we work together other camps are goners  
When our lake glimmers in the sun  
We are able to have lots of fun  
Through all the hardship  
We can still build friendships  
Even when we're on the sea  
We still create memories  
When our rainbow connects  
Our voice projects  
From Nancy and Bob to Kat and Jason  
Kamaji awaits a new generation



# AROUND THE CAMPFIRE

Camp stories, memories, and photos. Submissions have been edited for length and clarity

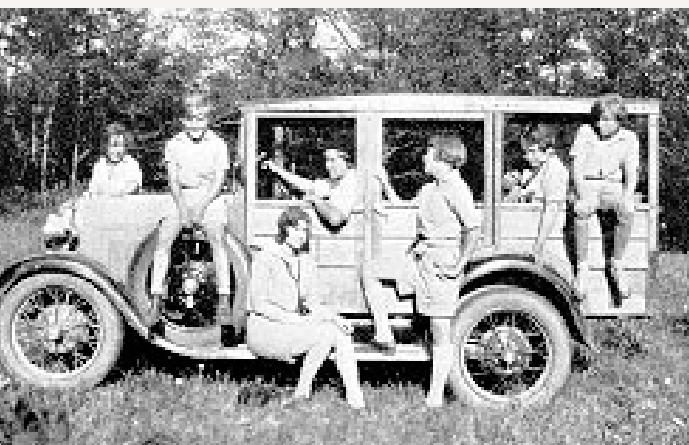


Well, this is a pretty...amazing/horrifying/startling picture! Probably from 1967, no, I don't have that sweatshirt anymore! I found the photo while looking for my "Geshig pig", a little wooden toy given to me by **Cathy Masson**, a fellow Geshig. Cathy was great friends with my big sister, **Jane Welch** (camper '62-'67, Ishkaday), and the two of them helped me through my first year of camp. Jane and I are, of course still sisters and still friends...and Jane and Cathy are still good friends, too. it was a conversation about Jane's upcoming visit with Cathy that set me to searching for the Geshig Pig. Haven't found it yet, but lots of other "interesting " items, and lots of sweet memories of our times together at Kamaji and away from camp.

-**Judy Meisner**, Camper '67-'68, '70-'71, '73. Staff '01-'19, '21

Earlier last year, a new family bought the house next door to us. Obviously we were anxious to know who would be moving in. I first learned that I knew the woman's mother and looked up the neighbor on Facebook. Well wouldn't you know! We had several mutual friends, including Kat Martin and Kathy Jay! Well wouldn't ya know! **Katie (Kahn) Adler** ('97-'04) was moving next door. Though we never overlapped at Kami, our shared love of camp, and her sweetness, bonded us immediately.

-**Kim Cole**, Camper '85-'89, Staff '91



Kamaji's Woody automobile



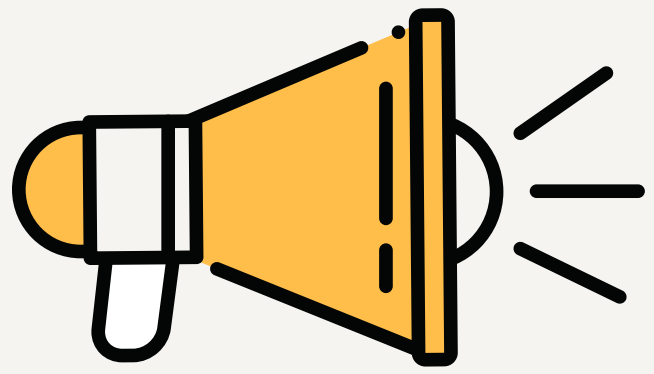
Hatchery Counselors, Summer 2009



Campers, Summer 2010

**We want to hear from YOU! Submit your Camp Kamaji memories and photos to [kat@kamaji.com](mailto:kat@kamaji.com) or [bri@kamaji.com](mailto:bri@kamaji.com) for the next edition of 1914**

# ANNOUNCEMENTS! ANNOUNCEMENTS! ANNOUNCEMENTS!



Hi ho at Kamaji- the alumni are sounding off!

## CELEBRATE KAMAJI DAY!

Kamaji Day is a special day for the Kamaji community to celebrate camp and show some serious camp spirit. **Celebrate with us Friday, February 25th!**

### How?!

1. Wear your favorite Kamaji gear on February 25th
2. Take a photo
3. Post YOUR photo on your favorite social media platform. Be sure to tag @campkamaji and use the hashtag #KamajiDay
4. You can also email photos to [bri@kamaji.com](mailto:bri@kamaji.com) for the next newsletter.



Did you leave your tribe shirt at the waterfront? Purchase a new one **HERE**.



## ALUMNI AUTHOR

**Emily (Wolf) Schaffer's** first novel, *My Thirty-first Year (and Other Calamities)* is coming out August 2, 2022. Mark your calendars- you can pre-order the book on Amazon in June or July 2022 or order it when it officially "drops" on 8/2/22!

Emily has said that fellow author & alumni **Ami (Lipschultz) Polonsky** has been a huge help and inspiration to her!



## NEW ADDITIONS TO OUR ACTIVITY PROGRAM!

We are excited to announce 2 NEW additions to our summer programming options! Next summer, campers will be able to sign-up for outdoor cooking AND guitar lessons.

We are currently accepting donations of gently used guitars. Email [kat@kamaji.com](mailto:kat@kamaji.com) for more info.

## Do you have news to share?

Send us your humble brags and business ventures to share with the Kamaji community! Email [kat@kamaji.com](mailto:kat@kamaji.com) or [bri@kamaji.com](mailto:bri@kamaji.com) and we'll include it in the next newsletter.

# SUMMER 2021

A few snapshots from Kamaji's 106th season!





# A FAMILY TRADITION

Summer 2021 photos celebrating the legacy of Kamaji



1st Session, 2nd+ Generation Campers & Staff



2nd Session, 2nd+ Generation Campers & Staff



1st Session 5+ Years



2nd Session 5+ Years



10 Year Blanket Recipients  
**Maddie Gordon, Lillian Fleisher, Shannon (Espenschied) Kettenring, and Lucy Groover**



Pine Manor

# CAMP FOR ALL KIDS

Each summer Camp For All Kids partners with Kamaji and 6 other camps to help provide camperships (camp scholarships) to Black and Brown children from under-resourced communities. At Kamaji we believe that when camp is diverse everyone benefits.

Over 100 campers from diverse backgrounds were able to experience the joys of camp this summer thanks to the generous support of the CFAK community!

Having a more diverse community is only the first step. We are working hard to make sure our community is diverse AND inclusive. Part of the magic of Kamaji is a feeling of great belonging and feeling loved for who you are.

Last summer we started a new program to supply our campers who come to camp having earned a CFAK scholarships or Director's Scholarship with camp supplies they need at Kamaji. This included items such as a washhouse bucket, a sweatshirt, a Crazy Creek camping chair, a water bottle, a tutu and an animal onesie- the essentials!! We were able to do this with generous donations and contributions from current campers and alumni (see note about "Giving Back" next!).

Help us continue our mission of diversifying camp and making it inclusive for campers and families of different races, religions, socio-economic backgrounds, nations of origin, familiar structures, etc.

In order to continue in this positive trend at Kamaji, we need your financial contributions to send more deserving children from underserved communities to camp. Children need the gift of nature and belonging more than ever before.

You can Sponsor a Campership (encourage your old cabinmates to get together to sponsor a camper together!), donate an annual gift of any amount, or even make a tribute gift.

In addition to your financial contributions, we are looking for additional motivated, hard-working and passionate people to join the Camp for All Kids Board with alumnae, **Heather (Rifkin) Rosenblatt**, **Melissa Novack**, **Sarah Cort** and Kamaji parents, **Nicole Barnett** and **Lana Kennebrew** and Honorary Board Member, **Sharon Remis**. Board President is former camper parent, **Robin Schachtel**. Please consider donating your time and talents to support Kamaji and this incredible foundation which started at Camp Kamaji in the 1990's.



## SAVE THE DATE!

### Cocktails Around the Campfire

April 22, 2022  
At Loft 21 in Lincolnshire, IL

# DONATE TODAY!

## GIVING BACK

We are lucky to be part of a kind and thoughtful camp community!

This past year **Nora Rubin** (camper '17-19, '21-'22) collected donations to help support Camp Kamaji scholarship campers directly for her Bat Mitzvah project. She was able to help provide stationary, water bottles, clipboards, and more for everyday use by Kamaji campers! **Heather Rosenblatt** (Kamaji alumna and current camper parent) donated Crazy Creeks for our scholarship campers too! We also would like to thank **Lisa Burik**, mom to former camper's **Nina** and **Frankie**, and **Frankie's on the Park** for continued donations to the scholarship camper "welcome baskets".

A big **THANK YOU** to all of the community members who donated and supported our scholarship program! Our goal at Kamaji is not simply to provide opportunities to campers of diverse backgrounds to attend camp but to also help each member feel welcomed to our incredible community. Having all the fun camp "stuff" is one small way we can do that!

# NOW HIRING!

There is no better job than working at camp! We are actively hiring for summer '22 seasonal positions. Please help Kamaji recruit a dynamite staff by referring your friends and family to join the Kamaji Team.

## Open Positions

- Cabin counselors who teach one of the following: Sailing, Swimming, Canoeing, Paddleboarding (Stand-Up Paddling), Water-skiing, Windsurfing, Fishing, Sea-Kayaking, English Horseback Riding, Tennis, Archery, Drama, Guitar, Arts and Crafts, Ceramics and Pottery, Manual Photography, Fitness, Dance, Outdoor Living Skills, Low Ropes Course and Climbing Wall
- Wilderness Trip Leaders who lead trips from two to nine days long.
- Maintenance Team
- Head Cook/Kitchen Manager
- Nurses and Assistant Nurses
- Nannies
- Administrative Office Assistants
- Leadership Positions



**APPLY  
TODAY!**

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# LEADERS IN TRAINING

Do you know a rising junior looking to gain hands on leadership experience in a fun, challenging, and supportive environment? Registration is now open for our 4 week leadership training program! LTs commit to working as a "Counselor-In-Training" with campers and being supervised by a LT Director who conducts leadership meetings and trainings to apply at camp and in lives away from camp- highlighting those leadership skills that will benefit participants long after camp is over.

*Arrive July 13th\* (to participate in training)*  
*Depart August 10th*

Email [kat@kamaji.com](mailto:kat@kamaji.com) for more information about this program today!



# BOY OH BOY IS THAT GREAT



Recipe from the Kamaji cookbook

## Banana Boats

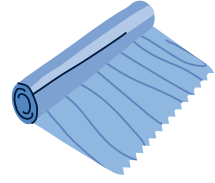
### Ingredients

- 6 large bananas, unpeeled, stems removed
- 2 cups semisweet chocolate chips
- 1 (10.5 ounce) package miniature marshmallows

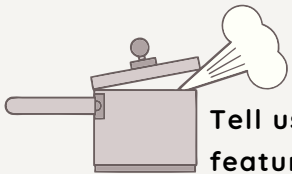
### Directions

1. Preheat the grill (or campfire) for high heat.
2. Spray 4 sheets of aluminum foil, large enough to wrap bananas, with cooking spray.
3. Slice the peel of the banana from stem to bottom, while slicing the banana inside lengthwise. The bananas can be cut into slices instead if you like, (while still in the peel) for easier handling later.
4. Carefully open the banana just wide enough to place the chocolate chips and marshmallows inside the peel with the banana. Stuff with as much of the chocolate chips and marshmallows as desired.
5. Wrap the bananas with the aluminum foil and place on the grill or directly in the coals of a fire. Leave in long enough to melt the chips and the marshmallows, about 5 minutes. Unwrap bananas, open the peels wide, and eat with a spoon.

Servings: 10



The perfect excuse to build a cozy winter fire. We recommend finishing your meal with this after a yummy tinfoil dinner. Find the recipe on page 80 of the **Camp Kamaji Cookbook**.



Tell us which recipe you would like to see featured in the next edition of 1914.

Email [bri@kamaji.com](mailto:bri@kamaji.com) to let us know which recipe you miss most from your camp days!

# SINGING IN THE RAIN

Lyrics from the Kamaji Songbook

## The Counselor's Song

We're the COUNSELORS at Kami  
And we're all a bunch of honeys.  
And we know everything  
There is to know...is to know.  
We can see you when you're readin'  
And we know when you are sleepin';  
That's a line you'll have to tow.

Singin' we are the Kami COUNSELORS  
We are the Kami COUNSELORS.  
We are the best there'll ever be,  
Ever be.

We're conceited and we know it,  
And we are not afraid to show it,  
So you better be good...  
You better be good...  
You better be good to we!

## Like Unto a Ship

(Dedicated to Bert and Phil)

Like unto a ship  
Is our own dear Kami camp.  
Bert as the pilot  
Is our ever-guiding lamp.  
Phil as the first mate  
Leading the crew  
Of Kami girls so strong and true.  
Counselors are there  
To give us each a helping hand.  
We will always strive  
To be a happy, cheerful, band.  
As long as our ship sails on the sea  
We'll be true to thee.



## You've Been Primping

(Sung when someone is late to a meal)

You've been primping. You've been primping.  
Now you're late. Now you're late.  
Start a little earlier. Start a little earlier.  
We won't wait! We won't wait!

## If I Had the Wings of an Airplane

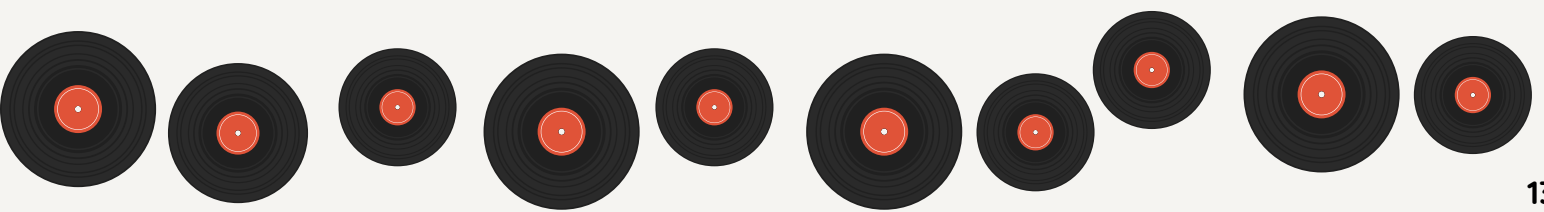
If I had the wings of an airplane (Airplane)  
Back to Wolf Lake I would fly (Would fly)  
There at my Kami camp (Camp)  
There I would stay 'til I die.

*Refrain*

We love our Kami camp (Camp)  
We love the things that we do (Again)  
We love our Kami camp (Camp)  
But most of all we love you. (The end).

## Chicken

C - that's the way it begins  
H - that's the second letter in  
I - I am the third  
Oh C - I'm the fourth letter in that word.  
K - I'm filling in  
E - I'm near the end  
Oh, C-H-I-C-K-E-N that's the way you spell chicken.





## CONTACT INFO

Summer Address  
32054 Wolf Lake Road  
Cass Lake, MN 56633

Winter Address  
PO Box 70  
Lake Bluff, IL 60044  
www.kamaji.com

Kat & Jason Nelson  
Directors  
kat@kamaji.com  
jason@kamaji.com  
218-556-1805

Bri Humphries  
Office & Marketing  
Manager  
bri@kamaji.com  
218-308-7336

## CONNECT

- Facebook
- Twitter
- Instagram
- Camp InTouch

## ENROLL TODAY!

- 2022 Enrollment Application

# WHAT'S UP WITH THAT, WHAT'S UP WITH KAT?

We were so happy to be back on the shores of Wolf Lake again last summer! Being together was the best reward after the challenges of the prior two years.

With some adjustments, camp felt like, well, camp! The camaraderie amongst the campers was incredible. While friendships amongst campers is always an important part of the Kamaji experience, I did notice that there were many new friendships forming between campers of all ages. The older campers really leaned into their positions as role models and embraced all the younger campers who flocked to them for their attention and to be part of their orbit. Tribe Leaders, especially, took their roles very seriously to make sure they made connections with each of their tribe members and took time for these campers outside of just Evening Programs and tribe meetings. It was really special to see.

The staff were incredible last summer. Every staff member committed to spending their time-off on camp grounds just to further protect our community of campers, particularly those who were too young to be vaccinated. For those of you who work with children or are parents, you know how important it is to take a mental and physical break and do some self-care! And these amazing young people demonstrated incredible grit and character by finding ways to do this while still at camp. They enjoyed time together singing songs, playing the guitar, and just watching movies together in our large, outdoor, tented staff lounges. They ordered food and we picked up takeout for them to enjoy while playing ping-pong, bags

and foosball. They spent time building friendships with one another and re-energizing to give their all for our campers the following day. These staff are incredibly special to us, for selflessly putting camp and the campers first every single day. We were so lucky to have them by our sides- we could not have done it without them.

We are very busy preparing for Summer 2022. Enrollment is off to a good start, I have been Zooming with a lot of families and we will be starting our virtual “watch parties” with last summer’s campers to enjoy the video scrapbook from 2021. We would welcome your continued support to help us spread the word about Kamaji!! And we are excited to welcome new and returning staff to our lineup, it has been especially exciting to welcome some alumni who are also children of alumni!!

Thank you for supporting Kamaji, for sharing your stories and pictures with us. Please continue to do so, we love reconnecting with our alumnae. Sending you best wishes in this new year!

Always,  
Kat and Jason, too!



# IT'S A SMALL WORLD



**Caileigh Sullivan, Eva Alessandrone, Kate Bowker, Bri Sullivan, and Emma Cusack** bumped into one another at the Saratoga Springs race course in New York.



**Amy Moscovitz, Meredith (Goodale) DeSanto, and Lauren Moss** recently celebrated Meredith's wedding in Punta Cana. Congrats, Meredith!



**Lucy Groover and Sarah Devereux** celebrated Bid Day together for Alpha Chi Omega, Bucknell University.



Beach day for **Kirsten Anthony Lowe** and **Nancy Reiland**!



**Helene Hoepffner** and **Chloe White** had a mini-reunion in Paris, France. Helene was Chloe's counselor in Cabin 4 (2000, second session).



# IT'S A SMALL WORLD



Kamaji Alumna, **Samantha Nisenboim** ('95 - '01, 03-04), generously hosted 2021 counselor, **Beth Paragreen** from Australia, in Los Angeles after camp. Beth expressed an interest in learning more about working behind the scenes in the movie industry and Sam thoughtfully offered to meet to share about her own experiences and advice.



**Molly Jones-Peterman, Alix Joseph, and Stephanie Kaplan Scheimer**, reunited for a visit and brunch!



Former campers **Ella Fies** and **Rose** met at a wedding recently, even though they had never met at camp!



Congratulations to new bride **Maddie Miller Fink**! Each of Maddie's camp friends wore a dress in their tribe color to celebrate the occasion.



New 2022 camper, **Lucia**, looks at Kamaji memories with her grandma, **Barbi Beers** (Ishkaday in the 1950's) at their home in Tepoztlan, Mexico.

Lucia's mom, **Julie Guzzardo**, was also a camper from 1984-1986!

BE SURE TO SEND US YOUR PHOTOS AND SMALL WORLD (EVEN FROM A DISTANCE) RUN-INS TO INCLUDE IN THE NEXT EDITON OF 1914! EMAIL [BRI@KAMAJI.COM](mailto:BRI@KAMAJI.COM) OR [KAT@KAMAJI.COM](mailto:KAT@KAMAJI.COM).